

Application No. 09/919,854

Reply to Office Action of August 26, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 36-82 are pending. Claim 69 has been amended to replace the term "biological" with the term --enzymatic--. Claim 75 has been revised to indicate stringent conditions involve a temperature of 68°C. Claims 79-81 have been amended to replace the term "comprising" with --consisting of--. Minor typographical corrections have been made to claims 52, 60 and 68. As requested, Claims 80 and 81 have been presented in independent form. Accordingly, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been added.

The Applicants thank Examiner Fronda for the courteous and helpful discussion of February 11, 2004. Changes to improve the clarity of the claim language and place the application in condition for allowance were discussed. These changes are set forth above. Accordingly, favorable consideration is now respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statements

Courtesy copies of prior-filed Forms 1449 are attached herewith for the convenience of the Examiner. The Applicants respectfully request return of signed copies of these forms to them at the time of allowance. Copies of the corresponding documents have been previously submitted to the PTO. However, should copies of the documents associated with these forms be missing from the PTO file, the Applicants will be happy to provide such to the Examiner upon request.

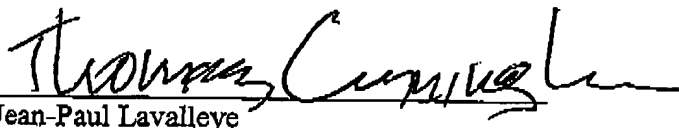
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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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